Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

May 28, 2013

Honorable Ray LaHood Secretary Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590-9898

The Honorable Eric Holder Attorney General Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-2000

Dear Secretary LaHood and Attorney General Holder:

As the Departments of Justice and Transportation review the proposed merger of American Airlines and US Airways, we write to ask you to consider very carefully the potential adverse impact of any slot divestiture at Washington's Reagan National Airport. Many of us represent communities that receive nonstop service to the Nation's Capital, in large part due to US Airways' use of Reagan National as a hub of operations. Requiring a reduction of slots by the merged company could reduce the flights to our communities and the economic benefits these flights provide.

We appreciate that your evaluation of the merger must include an assessment of antitrust laws and the competitive consequences of the merger. We urge you to include in your analysis the consequences to small and medium communities that divestiture of slots at Reagan National Airport would trigger. A significant portion of the slots to be used by the merged airline would be devoted to continuing existing service to small and medium size communities and increasing one-stop access to many more markets throughout the country. These flights provide economic benefits by facilitating commerce, encouraging tourism, and making these small and medium sized communities attractive locations for new businesses.

A requirement of the new airline to divest slots at Reagan National would jeopardize existing service to our communities and could preclude any access to new markets. Other airlines lack the necessary connectivity out of Reagan National and would be more likely to transfer any divested slots to larger cities and more lucrative routes.

Therefore we urge you to take into account the impact a divestiture of slots would have on smaller communities as you evaluate this proposed merger. Reduction or the elimination of flights to these areas would have significant economic consequences for our constituents and could result in more underserved communities.

Sincerely,

Michael Michaud

Member of Congress

John J. Duncan, Jr.

Member of Congress

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